

AJEVES AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE

AJEVES Agricultural Cooperative is located in the Northern Periphery of the Salonga National Park in Equateur Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The community lacks employment, basic healthcare, sanitation, access to markets, and schooling. Despite a periodic abundance of fish, children are malnourished due to an unbalanced diet. Local farms are relatively small in size, and villagers lack seeds, crop variety, basic farming implements, and access to markets.

AJEVES Agricultural Cooperative received a \$5,000 grant from the Ambassador's Special Self Help Fund to improve the conditions. The goal of this project was to revitalize agriculture in nine villages thus improving nutritional value to the villagers, providing a means for income and access to markets, providing training for villagers in new agricultural techniques to maximize crop output and land usage, and offering guidance to render the cooperative self-sufficient in consecutive years. There were many obstacles along the way, but the grant was put to use to fulfill on these objectives. The villages received training, cleared fields, purchased equipment and supplies including pirogues as well as seeds and cuttings, and planted crops. The community now has a new possibility for income, self-sufficiency, and nutrition.



